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ABSTRACT

Appropriate for intermediate grades through high school, this social studies newspaper guide suggests learning activities using newspapers. The areas covered are history, geography, current events, the working class, sociology, the political scene, cultures, government, and travel. Suggested assignments include writing a feature or news interview story complete with quotes from a famous historical villain, collecting newspapers from capital cities of every state and some foreign countries over a six-week period, or reading articles about current events and discussing which ones have the most effect on students' daily lives. Other activities recommended are clipping advertisements to show the variety of businesses in the local community, studying the relationship of hot weather and crime, collecting foreign recipes, and collecting articles about capitalism, socialism, and communism and then discussing differences and similarities. A glossary of newspaper terms is also included. (IS)

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A SOCIAL STUDIES/NEWSPAPER GUIDE

A NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION SERVICE

Prepared by
Lynn J. Richardson

JOHNSON CITY PRESS-CHRONICLE

SP 016 152

CARL A. JONES
Publisher

The staff of the Johnson City Press-Chronicle has always appreciated the value of newspapers as an educational device. We have worked for years to come up with the instruments to assist in the development of good readership and learning techniques.

Last year we published "COVER TO COVER", a language arts/newspaper guide. It met with phenomenal success for a first edition.

It demonstrated the fact the newspaper in the classroom can be a stepping stone to a better understanding of the day-to-day activities, as well as enhancing the student's reading and interpretative skills.

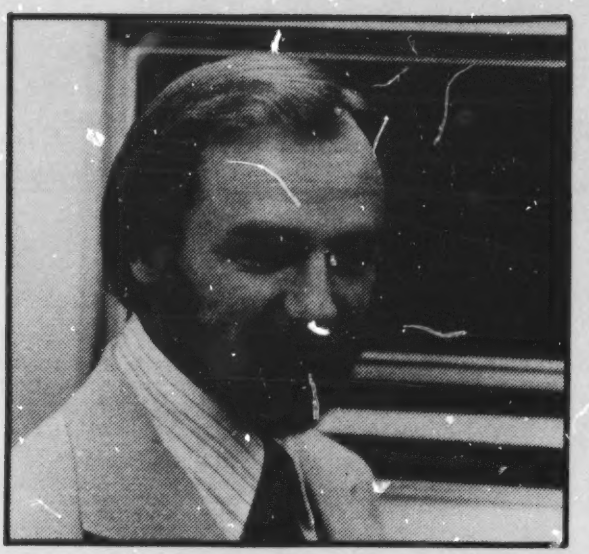
It is customary for the birth, graduation, athletic teams, college, marriage and death of individuals to be chronicled in the pages of your newspaper, as well as the day-to-day report of activities in our circulation area, upper East Tennessee, the state, the South, the nation and world news. Educational cartoons on the day-to-day activities, comic strips and special features are also in your newspaper.

From city, county, state, and national government, one has the opportunity to learn and to develop interest in the political scene. Some of you may end up becoming members of the various legislative bodies running our government as a result of reading this paragraph and this booklet. It is still a dream of youth to be the President of the United States.

In addition to these things, the newspaper will help broaden the student's ability to read, learn and understand many other things such as history, current events, world affairs, sociology, community relations and geography.

It is in this spirit we present this social studies/ newspaper guide, "AS THE CROW FLIES".

Carl A. Jones



TIM P. JONES

General Manager

The management of the Johnson City Press-Chronicle invites all who are interested in a better understanding of the newspaper industry to visit our offices and take advantage of our in-depth tours. Here you will see each department in action and learn its particular function in the production of a newspaper.

By visiting the Johnson City Press-Chronicle offices, you will have an opportunity to see the actual operation of some complex and very unique machinery. You will be able to have your questions answered by our own personnel. This first-hand information cannot be obtained from reading the newspaper alone.

Personal contact between our employees and the community is important to us at the Johnson City Press-Chronicle. We appreciate and encourage letters to the editor, original articles and photography which are sometimes used in the paper and suggestions for improvement from our readers.

Still another service we offer is arranging for guest speakers to go into the classroom and discuss varous aspects of the newspaper industry. In addition, a special representative of the Johnson City Press-Chronicle is qualified to conduct an introductory unit dealing with the newspaper in education.

We look forward to serving you in any of these ways.

Tim P. Jones

PREFACE

Dear Teacher:

We at the Johnson City Press-Chronicle sincerely hope and believe that you will enjoy using this booklet, "AS THE CROW FLIES", as a part of your social studies program.

We suggest that you read the preface and the comments contained in the front of this booklet aloud to your class before beginning work on the individual sections to give them the necessary background and basic understanding they will need to fully enjoy and learn through our program.

The glossary you will find in the back pages of the book is more or less for your individual needs. You may wish to explain certain words as you go along, play definition games, construct sentences, etc. with our journalistic words. We're sure they will help in whatever form you decide to use them.

Please feel free to alter any of the listed activities for your greatest benefit to the class. And please keep in touch. We are always interested in hearing your ideas!

"AS THE CROW FLIES" is your teacher's manual. Use the Johnson City Press-Chronicle as your students' textbooks. Where else could you get books with today's "copyright" for eight cents each?!

Prepared by Lynn J. Richardson

Illustrated by Susan Patrick

To the student:

At least one thing in today's paper will affect your life.

Maybe you'll find a story which says that gasoline is plentiful - you'll be able to take that trip to the beach after all!

The winter coat you've been wanting is now on sale for 20 percent off the original price, your favorite team will play in a televised game tonight and your mother just made a great cake by a recipe she clipped from the paper.

From front page to last page, the Johnson City Press-Chronicle contains stories, ads and lots more information that shapes your lifestyle, whether you realize it or not.

The Johnson City Press-Chronicle is a living textbook, one that is updated every single day.

Life is never the same from one 24-hour period to the next.

Neither are we!

References: The Leader Post, Saskatchewan, Canada.
The Courier Journal - The Louisville Times, Louisville, KY.

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HISTORY

Describe the latest fashions during a fashion show for cavemen and cavewomen; Spanish conquistadors; etc. Read the Family Section for ideas.

Become the food editor and plan a banquet for a large group of English pirates for a ship-robbing celebration.

Knights in their armour and on horseback are about to have a jousting competition. Write about this as if it were a sports story.

Write a feature or news interview story, complete with quotes from a famous historical villian.

Women's Rights really are in the news. Contrast the rights of women 75 years ago to their rights today. What do you think of drafting women? Form two teams and debate this issue, based on information on the subject from the Johnson City Press-Chronicle.

Design a miniature newspaper to include stories, pictures, ads, etc. which would be relevant to a given period of history.

Take a stand on an issue of controversy in history. Write a Letter To The Editor about it.

Choose a famous person from history or today's scene. Cut out pictures, words or articles which seem to describe this person's personality, ideas, standards and intellect.

Write down several names of historical and modern famous people in the news. Then write down several famous places from history and from the present. Do the same with famous events. Cut them into slips and put them in three separate containers. Draw one from each container and write a "fabulous feature" using a combination of the three details.

GEOGRAPHY

Each of you should choose your favorite foreign country. Read as much about it in the newspaper as you can. Then let each person tell the rest of the class all the good points of their respective country in order to convince them that it is the best place to live or visit. Afterwards, vote on the favorite country.

Choose a state or country as your own. Collect as many items as you can from the Johnson City Press-Chronicle on this place and become an expert.

Try to collect a newspaper from every capital city of every state and some foreign countries during a six-weeks period.

Look over the front page. In five minutes, circle every word you can find that is a geographical term. List the words and underline any you don't completely understand. Look up the underlined words.

Collect stories and pictures of geographical features such as rivers, mountains, lakes, etc. Place pins on local, national or international maps to show their location.

Collect as many pictures and articles as possible concerning local geographical areas.

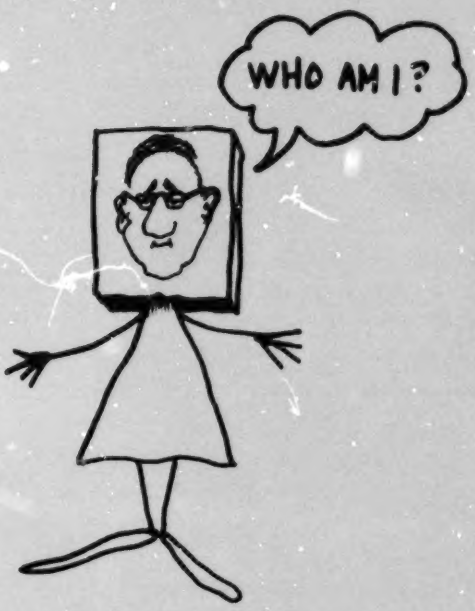
Put a pin in every country and state where news was made today.

Circle every dateline that is a capital city of a state or country.

Every time you read the paper, circle every geographical term you can find, such as jungle, river, lake, ocean, etc.

By popular vote, choose the class' favorite professional baseball, basketball or football team. Follow their travels by reading about them and using the map.

Make a game of finding a photograph or news article from every state in the United States until you've found all 50 of them.



CURRENT EVENTS

Pick a current topic from the newspaper and do a research paper on it.

Bring in news stories from the Johnson City Press-Chronicle all week. Each week, vote on the most important news story of the week. Then choose one per month and one per school year.

Make "people in the news" flash cards. Cut out pictures and write the names on the back. Play "Quick I.D.s" with your classmates.

Study the tax system through the newspaper. Find articles on rising tax rates and discuss what may have occurred should this have happened 200 years ago.

As you read stories in the newspaper, discuss which ones have the most effect on your day-to-day life.

Increased population means increased means of transportation. Find examples of this in your area through news accounts and feature stories.

Hunt and find answers to the following questions or other questions pertaining to current news stories:

(1) How does the President feel about the Iranian government?
(2) Who is Ramsey Clark?
(3) How does the President feel about Clark's trip to Iran?
(4) How many hostages are in Iran?
(5) How long have they been there?
(6) What do you think we should do in order to free them?

Read news articles and letters to the editor for several weeks. Then prepare and deliver a winning speech to your classmates based on public sentiment.

Make a scrapbook of what you consider to be the most important events of each week. Share your scrapbooks at the end of the year.

Make a "For The Sports Fan" brochure from clippings, photos, etc. from the Johnson City Press-Chronicle which would show the public that East Tennessee is sports-oriented.

THE WORKING CLASS

Have you ever watched a house being built? Think of all the jobs that one house creates. Look in the classified ads to find people to do the different jobs needed in home-building.

Find all the pictures you can in the paper that were taken in the city you live in. Make a poster that would encourage people to want to live and work and bring business into the area.

Our world runs because of working people. Find names of jobs in the Johnson City Press-Chronicle that begin with each letter of the alphabet. For example - artist, ballplayer, contractor, doctor, etc.

Clip ads to show the variety of businesses in the area, such as clothing, grocery, discount, realty, etc.

ANT FARMER, BEE KEEPER, CADDY, DACHSHUND BREEDER, ELEPHANT TRAINER, FISH FRYER, GLADIATOR, HOCKEY PLAYER, IMMUNOLOGIST, JUGGLER...

Jobs are an important part of society. Check the classified ads to find out the variety of employment in the area. What type is more prevalent - industrial, agricultural, professional, etc.?

Weather can have a big effect on the price of food. For instance, if a late frost occurs where a lot of oranges are grown, they will have to be shipped from a farther distance and there are fewer of them, so the price will go up. Keep your eyes peeled for examples of this in news stories in the Johnson City Press-Chronicle.

Write an essay on "East Tennessee - A Growing Area". Use clippings to assist you which refer to growth points in the Tri-Cities.

SOCIOLOGY

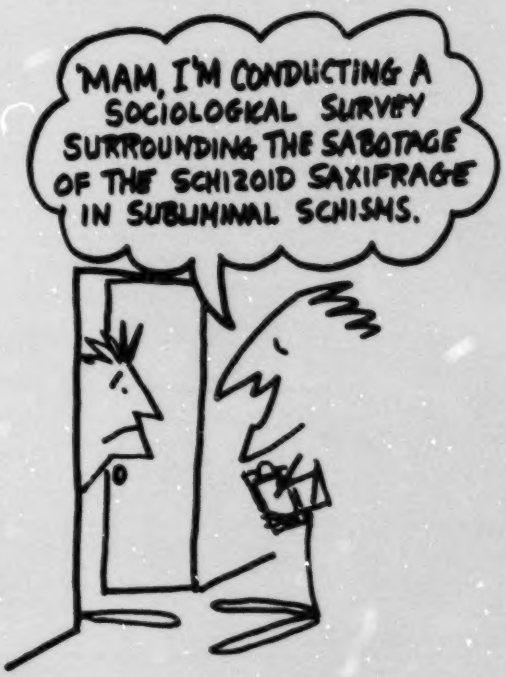
Tempers flare during the hot summer months and the crime rate goes up. Read the paper to see how weather and crime relate to each other.

Strikes result when workers and bosses don't agree on some aspects of the job. Find stories on strikes and try to determine what causes most of them. Try to find one which you think will affect you or your family the most.

Choose a current socioeconomic problem, such as the ghetto areas of large cities, unemployment, the Cuban refugees, the Cambodian refugees, etc. Read all you can and try to decide on things to help solve the problem.

Find pictures of city and country life. Divide a piece of paper into two sections and label them "country" and "city". After getting ideas from the pictures, write down things that happen in those two different areas in the appropriate column.

Conduct your own survey. Find out how many of your classmates read the front page; sports page; editorials; cartoons; etc.



The basic hub of society is the family. Read exerpts from "Dear Abby" concerning family situations. Write your own answers to the problems or questions.

In the news, there are two kinds of people - law-abiders and law-breakers. Clip stories out about various people and put them into their correct file.

Cut out cartoons and comic strips that deal with crime. What effect on readers might these have?

Choose the living famous person you would most like to be like. Collect everything you can find about this individual from the newspaper.

THE POLITICAL SCENE

Set up and role play an example of a meeting of your city's governing board. For a help with your script, cut out accounts written in the Johnson City Press-Chronicle.

Choose an issue from the congressional report - "How They Voted" - and debate it.

Determine the political stand the Johnson City Press-Chronicle has taken by keeping up with the editorials.

Check "How They Voted" every week. How does congressional action affect you or your family?

Campaign for your favorite candidate. But before you do, be sure you understand his or her views. Design posters, coin slogans and arrange press conferences only after studying articles about the candidate.

Is your candidate conservative, moderate or liberal? What do these words mean? Find out by reading all about the politician of your choice.

Check political cartoons weekly and discuss their meanings. Note who the characters represent and explain any exaggerated physical features.

You have just become a campaign manager for the candidate of your choice. Choose your campaign workers. Work as a group to clip and save all materials in the Johnson City Press-Chronicle concerning the candidate and become an expert. Make posters which would encourage his or her election.

It is your duty as a citizen to know how your local elected officials vote in the state and in the nation. Follow their voting records in the paper and decide if you agree or disagree with their vote.

CULTURES

List four ethnic groups. Find stories, photos or feature articles which let you understand them better. What special problems do they have? What could be done about them?

Clip out pictures from the Johnson City Press-Chronicle which give you a feeling of different social settings such as ghettos, city life, farm life, etc. Discuss how you would feel if you lived in each of these areas.

Collect foreign recipes from the Family Section of the newspaper. Discuss why these foods are popular in their respective countries.

Dig into your own history. Everyone has some sort of ethnic background. What is yours? Find everything you can in the paper - from recipes to editorials - that can be associated with your heritage.

Our country is called a "melting pot" Why? (Hint - Stories concerning Miami, Florida, may help explain this.) Find examples in history similar to this situation.

Homes are different all around the world. Find pictures of as many types of housing as you can find in the paper and label each one.

Invite a person of a different religious or ethnic background to class and ask them questions. Write a feature story on the event.

Clip out any cartoons whose humor might offend certain social or ethnic groups. Define these groups.

Who says that East Tennessee doesn't have culture?! Find examples to dispell this myth.

Our country is built on a democracy. Define democracy. What kind of government does Cuba have? Explain. Has this caused a problem? How have Cuba's problems affected the United States? Find answers to these questions by reading news articles in the Johnson City Press-Chronicle.

GOVERNMENT

What is a controversy? Find one in the paper. Write down what you would do to solve the situation or what you think should be done by someone else. Put them in sealed envelope and place in a box. When the issue is resolved, check your idea against what really happened. How did you do?

Collect news and feature articles on communism, socialism and capitalism. File in separate folders. Later discuss their differences and similarities.

The U.S. Constitution says that everyone is entitled to a fair and speedy trial. Read about trials in the paper. Do you think the articles could cause the jury to be prejudiced for or against the accused?

Friend or foe? Make a chart which will show the United States' relationships with various countries. Make your decisions if the relationships are good or bad by reading news stories and editorials.

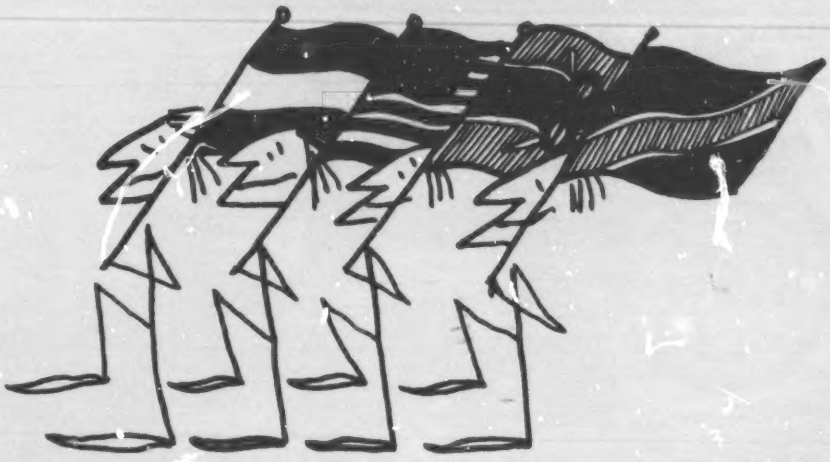
Every time you read about a country that isn't free, color it on a map.

What is the "Sunshine Law"? Why is it important to the public? Do you agree with its principle? Try to find any stories dealing with its disobeyance.

Debate a tax issue you've found in the paper. Why is it needed? Why isn't it needed? Get all the details.

Why do we need Civil Rights laws? Find articles related to civil rights and discuss.

Find political cartoons that show symbols for: The United States, Russia, peace, the Supreme Court, the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, etc.



TRAVEL

Read feature stories in the Johnson City Press-Chronicle. Study their style. Try writing one on the most interesting place you've recently been, read or heard about.

Make an over-sized brochure that will attract tourists to the area. Cut out maps, pictures and stories from the Johnson City Press-Chronicle which would show how lovely the area is.

Early in the fall, find states' stories and photos of places you have been on vacation this year or sometime in the past. Share your experience with the rest of the class.

Transportation is needed by everyone. Discuss the various types and find articles and photos related to the different types. (For example - airplane crashes, rising gas prices, recalled automobiles, strikes, etc.)

You can't get there from here! Of course you can! Take pins and thread and pinpoint "as the crow flies" routes from your hometown to places you've read about in the newspaper.

Write a feature article on a historical site in our area such as Tipton-Haynes, Sycamore Shoals, Rocky Mount, etc.

Pack an imaginary suitcase for a vacation to your chosen place. Cut out pictures of clothing and other items you will need for your trip, depending on the climate and atmosphere of the area.

Plan your trip "Around the World in 80 Days". What means of transportation would you need? What variety of clothing? Make a detailed outline.

GLOSSARY

1. ADVERTISING - Messages printed in newspaper space paid for by the advertiser.

2. ART - A general term for all newspaper illustrations and photographs.

3. ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) - A cooperative news-gathering and distributing service.

4. BANNER - A headline in large letters running across the entire width of the first page.

5. BEAT - Reporter's regular routine for covering news sources.

6. BREAKING NEWS - News that is developing at the moment.

7. BYLINE - The name of the writer printed at the head of a story.

8. CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING - Advertising space usually purchased in small amounts by the public.

9. COLUMN - The arrangement of horizontal lines of type in a news story; also, an article appearing regularly written by a particular writer or "columnist".

10. COPY - All written material prepared for printing.

11. COVER - To gather information and get facts for a story. "He covered the trial."

12. CREDIT LINE - A line acknowledging the source of a story or picture.

13. CUTLINE - The copy which accompanies and gives information about an illustration.

14. DATELINE - Opening words of story giving its original source and sometimes the date.

15. DISPLAY ADVERTISING - Large, frequently illustrated advertisements usually purchased by retail stores, manufacturers and service companies; advertising other than classified ads.

16. DOUBLE TRUCK - A single advertising or news presentation that used either some or all of two facing newspaper pages plus that portion between the two pages called the "gutter".

17. EDITION - The issue for one press run.

18. EDITOR - A person who directs the editorial policies; or a person who decides what news will go in the paper and where it will appear (as a managing editor); or a person who revises, correctsd, prepares or writes for publication (as a copy editor or city editor); or a person who directs the operation of a department (as a sports editor, city editor, etc.).

19. FEATURE - A story in which the interest lies in something beyond its straight news value.

20. FIVE W'S - Who, what, when, where, why and sometimes how. The elements usually included in a straight news lead.

21. FOLLOW-UP - A story which adds more information to a story already printed.

22. LEAD - The first paragraph of a story; a tip about a potential story.

23. NEWSPRINT - Paper on which newspapers are printed.

24. OBITUARY (OBIT) - A biography of a dead person used at the time of the announcement of the death in the newspaper.

25. PRESS CONFERENCE - Special meeting called to give information to the press.

26. SCOOP - An exclusive story, obtained before the competitor.

27. SOURCE - Supplier of information, such as a person, book, survey, etc.

28. TIP - An item of information which might lead to a news story.

29. WIREPHOTO - A trade name for equipment used for transmitting photographs by wire for AP.

30. WIRE SERVICES - The national and international news services which provide news and pictures by means of wire communication.

MY IDEAS